

CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS

Cryptosporidiosis is an illness caused by the coccidian protozoa *Cryptosporidium parvum* characterized by diarrhea, abdominal cramps, anorexia, low-grade fever, nausea and vomiting. Infected persons may be asymptomatic. The disease can be prolonged and life-threatening in severely immunocompromised persons. Transmission is fecal-oral and includes person to person, animal to person, waterborne, and foodborne routes. *Cryptosporidia* parasites occur worldwide affecting humans, cattle, poultry, reptiles and many other vertebrate species.

Laboratory Criteria for Confirmation:

- Demonstration of *Cryptosporidium* oocysts in stool, **OR**
- Demonstration of *Cryptosporidium* in small bowel biopsy or other clinical specimens, **OR**
- Demonstration of *Cryptosporidium* antigen in stool by a specific immunodiagnostic test such as enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays (ELISA).

Incidence in Kentucky	2000
Number of Cases	7
Rate per 100,000	0.2

In **2000**, the ages of reported cases ranged from 1 year to 63 years of age. They were reported from 7 different counties and six districts. Five of the cases were in females and two in males.